



10 MAY 2007

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In re Application of	:	
THOM et al.	:	
Application No.: 10/568,182	:	DECISION ON
PCT No.: PCT/GB04/03455	:	PAPERS UNDER 37 CFR 1.42
Int. Filing Date: 11 August 2004	:	
Priority Date: 13 August 2003	:	
Attorney Docket No.: 34-131	:	
For: FLOATING DRY DOCK SYSTEM	:	

This decision is issued in response to "Petition under 37 CFR 1.42 for Acceptance of Inventors' Declaration Signed by Legal Representative on Behalf of Dead Inventor" filed 24 August 2006 which is being treated as a request under 37 CFR 1.42. No petition fee is required.

BACKGROUND

On 11 August 2004, applicants filed the above-identified international application which claimed a priority date of 13 August 2003. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.495, the deadline for payment of the basic national fee was to expire 30 months from the priority date, 13 February 2006.

On 13 February 2006, applicants filed a transmittal letter for entry into the national stage in the United States accompanied, inter alia, by: the basic national fee; a copy of the international application; and a preliminary amendment.

On 05 July 2006, the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) mailed a Notification of Missing Requirements (Form PCT/DO/EO/905) requiring an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497 and the surcharge fee required under 37 CFR 1.492(e). The notification set a two-month time limit in which to respond.

On 24 August 2006, applicants filed a declaration executed by David Scot Thom and Denise Ganley, on behalf of deceased inventor, Denis Ganley.

DISCUSSION

37 CFR 1.42 *When the Inventor is Dead*, states, in part:

In case of the death of the inventor, the legal representative (executor, administrator, etc.) of the deceased inventor may make the necessary oath or declaration, and apply for and obtain the patent.

The declaration filed on 24 August 2006 is executed by David Scot Thom and Denise Ganley as the "executor" of the deceased inventor, Denis Ganley. The declaration submitted appears to have been executed by the proper parties under 37 CFR 1.42, however, the declaration does not satisfy the requirements under 37 CFR 1.497(b)(2). 37 CFR 1.497(b)(2) states the following:

(2) If the person making the oath or declaration or any supplemental oath or declaration is not the inventor (§§ 1.42, 1.43, or § 1.47) the oath or declaration shall state the relationship of the person to the inventor, and, upon information and belief, the facts which the inventor would have been required to state. If the person signing is the legal representative of a deceased inventor, the oath or declaration shall also state that the person is a legal representative and the citizenship, residence, and mailing address of the legal representative.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.497(b)(2), the declaration must provide the citizenship, mailing address, and residence information for the legal representative **and** the name and citizenship of the deceased inventor. The declaration filed on 24 August 2006 provides the residence, citizenship, and post office address for only one individual and it is unclear whether this information is for the legal representative or the deceased inventor. Accordingly, the declaration is not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(b)(2).

Because the filed declaration does not include all the information required by 37 CFR 1.497(b)(2), the declaration cannot be accepted under 37 CFR 1.42 and 37 CFR 1.497.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the request for status under 37 CFR 1.42 is **REFUSED**.

Applicants are required to provide an oath/declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a)-(b) within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this Decision. Failure to respond will result in the abandonment of the application. Any reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Submission Under 37 CFR 1.42" and must include an acceptable declaration under 37 CFR 1.497 which has been executed by the either the legal representative of the deceased inventor or, if no legal representative has been appointed, all of the heirs of the deceased inventor.

Any further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed to:
Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, Office of PCT Legal Administration, P.O. Box
1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, with the contents of the letter marked to the
attention of the Office of PCT Legal Administration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

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